

Message Text

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43

ACTION CU-04

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R 031313Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8732

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

UNCLAS PRETORIA 3646

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL, SF

SUBJ: NIKKI GIOVANNI

PARIS FOR ARS

JOHANNESBURG FOR BURNS

REF: STATE 188440

1. NIKKI GIOVANNI PROGRAMS IN JOHANNESBURG WERE UNQUALIFIED SUCCESS. GIOVANNI MADE THREE OVERNIGHT STOPS IN JOHANNESBURG, TRANSITTING BETWEEN BLS COUNTRIES. DURING TWO OF THESE STOPOVERS GIOVANNI WASUZSTED NO DINNERS BY BPAO AND ABPAO. ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, MULTI-RACIAL DINNER ATTENDED BY 35, INCLUDING SOUTH AFRICA'S LEADING POETS, WAS FOLLOWED BY READING OF POETRY FEATURING GIOVANNI. SOUTH AFRICAN POETS WHO ALSO READ WERE DONALD MATTERS, WALLY SEROTE, STEPHEN GRAY OF RAND AFRIKAANS UNIVERSITY, WILMA STOCKENSTROM OF PRETORIA (READ IN AFRIKAANS), AND SOUTH AFRICA'S BEST KNOWN POET, OSWALD MTSHALI, WHO MADE SPECIAL TRIP FROM DURBAN TO READ HIS POETRY AND MEET GIOVANNI.

2. ON STOPOVER SEPTEMBER 26, GIOVANNI HOSTED AT MULTI-RACIAL DINNER ATANRESETRJZNCE#ATTENDED BY LEADING WRITERS, ACADEMICIANS, AND ARTISTS, INCLUDING SOUTH AFRICA'S LEADING NOVELIST, NADINE GORDIMER.

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EM GIOVANNI EXTREMELY COOPERATIVE AND COMPLETELY FLEXIBLY
DURING HER VISITS IN JOHANNESBURG, DESPITE FACT THAT HEAVY
PROGRAMMING ELSEWHERE HAD FATIGUED HER SOMEWHAT. GIOVANNI'S
WARM OPEN PERSONALITY AND INFORMAL APPROACH WERE PERFECTLY
TAILORED TO WHAT POST WANTED FROM HER. SHE WAS SUPERB IN
INFORMAL DISUCSSIONS WITH WRITERS AND OTHER INTELLECTUALS
AND MADE EXCELLENT IMPRESSION ON ALL WHO MET HER. POST
BELIEVES RELATIONS WITH IMPORTANT SEGMENT SOUTH AFRICAN
LITERARY COMMUNITY WERE SIGNIFICANTLY REINFORCED BY THIS VISIT.
SMITH

NOTE BY OC/T: #AS RECEIVED. WILL BE SERVICED ON REQUEST.

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